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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/820,797	04/09/2004	Roy E. Lowrance	05793.3130	8723

22852   7590   11/15/2006

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP
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EXAMINER
KIM, PAUL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2161	

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>19 October 2006</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-63</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) <u>12-21,33-42 and 54-63</u> is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-11,22-32,and 43-53</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/9/04,10/25/05</u>.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This Office action is responsive to the following communication: Amendment filed on 19 October 2006.

Election/Restrictions

2.   Applicant's election without traverse of Group 1, claims 1-11, 22-32 and 43-53, in the reply filed on 19 October 2006 is acknowledged.

Response to Amendment

3.   Claims 1-11, 22-32 and 43-53 are pending and present for examination.

4.   Claims 12-21, 33-42 and 54-63 are Non-elected.

5.   Claims 1, 22 and 43 are independent.

6.   No claims have been added.

7.   No claims have been amended.

Information Disclosure Statement

8.   The information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on 9 April 2004 and 25 October 2005 are in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statements are being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis

for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

10.   **Claims 1-9, 22-30, and 43-51** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Hillis et al (USPGPUB 2003/0196094, hereinafter referred to as HILLIS), filed on 6 November 2002, and

published on 16 October 2003.

11.   **As per independent claims 1, 22 and 43,** HILLIS teaches:

A method for generating verifiable reported information, the method comprising:

generating a hash based on ingredient data, wherein the ingredient data is related to the generation of a report including the reported information {See HILLIS, [0242], wherein this reads over "[w]hen a data object is registered in the system, its type and content are used to generate a fast, unique hash value, which is used as the aforementioned index into the registry"};

storing the hash and the ingredient data in an ingredient database, the hash being associated with the ingredient data in the ingredient database {See HILLIS, [0242], wherein this reads over "[t]his hash value is used to identify and register the data object into the registry and is used as the index in the registry's hash table"}; and

outputting the report, the report including the report information and the generated hash stored in the database, wherein the stored hash and the ingredient data may be subsequently accessed using the hash included in the report to verify the report information {See HILLIS, [0240], wherein this reads over "[t]he registry is a distributed, hierarchical directory of information describing nodes and links of the labeled graph"; and [0400], wherein this reads over "documents may be made public for purposes of authenticating them, without actually publishing the content thereof"}.

12.   **As per dependent claims 2, 23 and 44,** HILLIS teaches:

The method of claim 1, further comprising generating the report using report information stored in an application database {See HILLIS, [0198], wherein this reads over "[a] potentially very large number of data servers store the underlying data and metadata"}.

13. **As per dependent claims 3, 24 and 45,** HILLIS teaches:

> The method of claim 1, further comprising generating the report using a software application remotely executable over a network {See HILLIS, Figure 3}.

14. **As per dependent claims 4, 25 and 46,** HILLIS teaches:

> The method of claim 1, wherein the ingredient data comprise at least one of a user's name that generated the report, a date and time the report was generated, one or more query statements that generated the report, a version of the data contained in any database used to generate the report, a format of the report, and data comprising or used to generate the report {See HILLIS, [0242], wherein this reads over "[w]hen a data object is registered in the system, its type and content are used to generate a fast, unique hash value, which is used as the aforementioned index into the registry"}.

Furthermore, the claim optionally recites the following elements which for the purposes of this

Office action will not be provided any patentable weight:

> a.   A user's name;
>
> b.   A date and time the report was generated;
>
> c.   Query statements that generated the report; and
>
> d.   Version data.

15. **As per dependent claims 5-6, 26-27 and 47-48,** the claims do not carry patentable weight

since the claims recite "query statement." Therefore, since the query statement was optionally recited in

the aforementioned claims (i.e. claims 4, 25 and 46), they are not necessary to the claimed invention and

are rejected accordingly.

16. **As per dependent claims 7, 28 and 49,** HILLIS teaches:

> The method of claim 1, wherein the ingredient data indicates how the report was generated {See HILLIS, [0245], wherein this reads over "[a]long with the index hash and signature, a hash table entry contains a data identifier 110 describing the data object's type, length, and one or more representations of the object's data 111, 112. The hash table entry also contains a metadata identifier 113, which includes an indication of the annotations of the data object"}.

17. **As per dependent claims 8, 29 and 50,** HILLIS teaches:

> The method of claim 1, wherein the report comprises at least one of a graph, a chart, a table {See HILLIS, [0242], wherein this reads over "[t]his hash value is used to identify and register the data object into the registry and is used as the index in the registry's hash table"}, a spreadsheet, a word processing file, a presentation file, and a text file.

18.   **As per dependent claims 9, 30 and 51,** HILLIS teaches:

The method of claim 1, wherein outputting the report further comprises providing an electronic copy of the report including a verifiable digital signature {See HILLIS, [0244], wherein this reads over "each hash table entry contains an index hash 68, an optional cryptographically strong signature for verification and security, a data identifier, and a metadata identifier"; [0400], wherein this reads over "documents may be made public for purposes of authenticating them, without actually publishing the content thereof"}.

19.   **As per dependent claims 10, 31 and 52,** HILLIS teaches:

The method of claim 9, wherein the electronic copy of the report is configured to include a user selectable element wherein a module configured to verify the digital signature included with the electronic copy of the report is executed when the user selectable element is selected {See HILLIS, [0381], wherein this reads over "[s]ubsequent users of the submitted content can then authenticate the content locally, by computing a hash using the publicly available algorithm, and comparing the hash obtained to the hash associated with the content"}.

20.   **As per dependent claims 11, 32 and 53,** HILLIS teaches:

The method of claim 10, wherein the module is remotely executable over a network {See HILLIS, [0379], wherein this reads over "[t]he computation of the hash may be performed either by the registry computer system or the computer system of the individual submitting the content"}.

Conclusion

21.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Kim whose telephone number is (571) 272-2737. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on (571) 272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application

Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from

either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through

Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

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access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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